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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 2002

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Supplement
to

THE CRISIS
USSR/CUBA

Information as of 1500
7 November 1962

PREPARED FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

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7 November 1962
1500 EST

BLOC SHIPPING TO AND FROM CUBA

Information available as of 1500 EST indicates that at least two Soviet ships have left Cuba since 5 November carrying a total of 11 missiles on transporters on their decks, as well as a variety of missile-related equipment. As of 6 November one other ship, at Casilda, had loaded at least 6 missiles. Thus these three ships have loaded 17 of the 30 missile transporters located at or near the ports of Casilda and Mariel by photography of 4-6 November.

At least three ships have left Cuba with missile associated equipment and at least one other ship was still loading such equipment on 6 November. Two other ships are in position to load missiles.

The DIVNOGORSK, which left Mariel on 5 November, was the first Soviet ship to remove missiles and missile transporters from Cuba. On the night of 6 November she was well on her way toward the Atlantic. A second ship, the METALLURG ANASOV, left Mariel between 6 and 7 October with eight missiles on transporters on her decks.

The LABINSK probably loaded missile-associated equipment at Mariel and then departed from Havana on 7 November. The BRATSK left Mariel on 5 November, heavily loaded with missile associated equipment on deck. The IVAN POLZUNOV left Mariel on 6 November loaded with at least 17 missile erectors, 4 launch stands, and other missile equipment.

Four other Soviet ships are believed to be engaged in loading missiles and related equipment. The VOLGOLES was loading at Mariel on 6 November; she almost certainly will take on missiles and transporters. The FIZIK KURCHATOV had loaded six of the 14 missiles known to be at Casilda. The LENINSKY KOMSOMOL probably will load the remaining 8 missiles. The ALAPEVSK was at the port of La Isabela on 6 November loading missile associated equipment, but no missiles. This loading probably will be completed in time for her to depart today.

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On 7 November there were 11 Soviet dry cargo ships and one European satellite dry cargo ship en route to Cuba. The USSR also has five tankers en route to Cuba, as well as one passenger ship, the GRUZIYA, which is carrying 100 passengers and a cargo of wheat flour.

Of particular interest among the Soviet dry cargo ships en route are the OKHOTSK and the ORENBURG. Both of these ships were involved in earlier arms shipments to Cuba, and both have the hatch sizes and loading characteristics associated with the ships believed to have carried missiles to Cuba. The OKHOTSK, in fact, is one of the 16 ships that turned back after the imposition of the quarantine. On these trips, however, their cargoes appear to be more harmless. The OKHOTSK is carrying a cargo of 4,300 tons of metal and the ORENBURG is carrying about 5,000 tons of general cargo, including trucks and winches.

The Soviet passenger ship NIKOLAEVSK left Cuba on the 5th of November, possibly returning some of the Soviet technicians to the USSR, although we have not been able to confirm this. Other routine departures in the past two days include two Soviet tankers and a dry cargo ship, the ALEKSANDROVSK.

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THE SITUATION IN CUBA

Photography of 6 November shows continuing assembly of IL-28 (BEAGLE) jet bombers at San Julian airfield. Nine IL-28s were observed, including five which appear completely assembled. Twenty fuselage crates were noted at the airfield. The top of one of them was partially removed, and a fuselage was visible inside. On 4 November seven IL-28s had been observed, three of which were probably operational.

Havana's celebration of the 45th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution may provide some clue to the current state of Cuban-Soviet relations. Major speeches were delivered by Soviet Ambassador Alekseyev and by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, president of the agrarian reform institute and seventh ranking leader of the Cuban political machine. Mikoyan was on the speakers' platform with President Dorticos, but Fidel and Raul Castro and Che Guevara were apparently absent.

The Soviet ambassador's speech was replete with references to Fidel Castro as "Cuba's legendary national hero" and the Cuban people's "supreme leader." He appeared to go out of his way to stress that Cuban-Soviet friendship is based on "mutual respect" and "complete equality." In this speech, which must have received prior approval from Mikoyan, the Soviet ambassador added that his government supports "the legitimate demands of the revolutionary government of Cuba which are aimed at guaranteeing the sovereignty and security of the country, formulated by Comrade Fidel in his five-point communique."

The general tenor of the Soviet ambassador's speech suggests a concerted effort to mollify the Cuban leaders, whereas the absence of the three highest ranking Cubans could have been a protest against Soviet pressures.

BLOC DEVELOPMENTS

Khrushchev told correspondents at a Kremlin reception on 7 November that the USSR at one time had 40 rockets in Cuba, but that they have been dismantled and "are probably already on their way...." (According to

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the figures which Kuznetsov gave Mr. McCloy on 4 November, the Soviets had introduced a total of 42 missiles into Cuba.)

Khrushchev's remarks also provided further evidence of serious difficulties in Mikoyan's talks with the Cuban leaders. He indirectly confirmed that Castro had not been consulted before Khrushchev's letter of 28 October was dispatched, and that Castro was extremely bitter at the Soviet leaders for agreeing to remove the missiles.

Khrushchev said the Cubans had refused to believe President Kennedy's assurances against an invasion in exchange for Soviet withdrawal of the missiles. He said the Soviets had warned the Cubans that if the USSR did not agree to this arrangement, "it would mean war." He said "we believed the President will keep his word," but added that if the President "went back on his word," that would be an "unreasonable step" which would "put us back where we were, back to a position of catastrophe."

Khrushchev, in addition, seemed to imply that he had abandoned, at least for the present, any plan to come to the UN and to meet with President Kennedy. He said there is no need at this time for a summit meeting with the President, but added that he would favor such a meeting "when peace was at stake."

(Khrushchev's remarks above now have appeared in press and radio.)

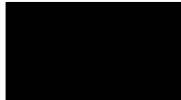
BLOC MILITARY FORCES

No significant change has been noted in the status of the major bloc military forces.


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Ground: Reconnaissance of the two areas in East Germany which were closed to Liaison Mission personnel

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between 26 October and 4 November revealed no signs that significant military activity took place during that period. It had been speculated that the GSFG was moving troops into the areas as a precaution against a NATO attack.



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